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Chapter 2516

"Who are you?!" bellowed Malcolm, already heavily injured by Jackie's hand. The pain coming from his soul had him on the brink of collapse.

Despite his injuries, however, the burning question that haunted him could no longer be held back, and he screamed at Jackie for the answer.

Jackie turned to look at Malcolm. At that moment, Malcolm was already hanging at his last thread, and at any moment, he could shut his eyes and pass away.

"And what'll happen after you know who I am, hmm? Would it change the results?" Jackie's tone was light as if he was talking about something very simple.

Malcolm's body became taut as his bloodshot eyes widened.

"Don't get too riled up, Malcolm!" hissed

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Jordan.

Malcolm was already on the verge of death. If he died, things would look incredibly grim for Jordan. The consequences needed no further explanation.

Even Malcolm had not been able to defeat the guy, let alone Jordan, who had not even entered the spring solidifying realm.

Alas, Malcolm completely ignored Jordan's words as he stared at Jackie in a deranged manner.

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"I'll never leave you, even when I'm a ghost!" vowed Malcolm, blood spurting out of his mouth as he did.

Hansel frowned, feeling conflicted about Malcolm.

Malcolm had once been his right-hand man...but never did he think that Malcolm would plot against him, forcing him to his current predicament.

He somewhat pitied Malcolm in his pathetic

state, but that feeling was quickly discarded. He would have been the one who would suffer a terrible fate had Jackie not been around. Malcolm would absolutely not.

"You have to hold on, Malcolm! We'll leave this place alive! If you die, what'll happen to me?!" Jordan anxiously clutched Malcolm's hand At that moment, Malcolm was far too emotional. His state was deteriorating, his hands trembling due to the tear that plagued his heart.

"I won't let you go unscathed, m-mark my word....! I won't...let you off even if I die... I'll curse you!" screamed Malcolm with the last ounce of strength he had left.

After his last words, his entire body suddenly straightened. His chest stopped heaving, and Jordan went crazy after seeing that.

He used all his strength to shake Malcolm, trying to bring Malcolm back from the dead. Alas, Malcolm's soul had been shattered by Jackie. It could no longer condense again.

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Malcolm had breathed his last.

At that moment, Jordan was no longer as arrogant as before, his whole body trembling in the aftermath.

Rudy retreated a few steps, no longer daring to even look at Jackie.

He regretted challenging Jackie and mocking Jackie so incessantly before. He recalled how he tried to suppress and oppress Jackie back when they were at the alliance branch. It was only at this moment did he realize how crazy that notion was.

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Chapter 2517

If Rudy knew how strong Jackie was from the start, he would never have dared to pull those stunts on him. Jackie had entered the spring solidifying realm at his current age and even defeated even a fifth-grade clan's chosen disciple.

Rudy was no match against him at all.

Grayson, too, thought the same. At that moment, they were basically in the same boat, full of regret for what they had done.

Jackie's expression did not change even as he stared at Jordan, who was crying out to the skies, merely raising his sword slowly.

The sunlight glinted against the sword, coldly reflecting onto Jordan's face. He could feel Jackie's murderous intent, and he could not help but shudder.

He suddenly looked up to face Jackie and

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noticed how he stared at him so emotionlessly. Jordan paled in fright, shuddering. He gulped as he pushed away Malcolm's body.

He adjusted himself before kneeling in front of Jackie. "Let me go; I was just following him! I didn't do anything... It's just that he gave me a lot of benefits, but I'm just an accomplice at most! P-Please, let me go...

"I don't stand a fighting chance against you whatsoever nor do I want to kill you. I don't really have much of a grudge against Hansel; I was just blinded by greed! I never expected..."

He cried as he spoke, but no matter what he said, Jackie's expression remained cold, fueling Jordan's panic even more. He started to crawl on the ground, attempting to grab Jackie's pants.

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However, Jackie did not give him that change. With a wave of Jackie's sword, the tip pointed right at Jordan's throat. Jordan no longer dared to move around, but he still refused to let go of any chance to survive.

"Please let me go! If you're willing to let me go, I can do anything you want me to do, and I'll even help Hansel reveal the truth! I'll have all the people who've misunderstood Hansel realize that it had nothing to do with him! We were the ones who trapped him-"

Jackie's sword stabbed into Jordan's throat before he could finish, and the last glimmer of hope in Jordan's eyes was the only thing left of him.

Jackie chuckled coldly; he never planned on letting someone like that get away scot free.

Hansel's face soured a little. Jordan's last few words sounded very promising for him, but it was already too late for anything. Jordan's throat was already stabbed by Jackie's sword, effectively ending his life once and for all.

With a thud, Jordan's corpse collapsed into a pile of leaves, no longer showing any signs of life. Jackie then sheathed his sword and turned to look at Hansel. "Let's go," he spoke, saying nothing else.

Jackie did not care about what would happen to Hansel after this. Jordan leaving the place alive would, in fact, be the biggest problem. No one knew if he would do anything to affect Jackie in the future.

Killing Jordan was the best preventive measure.

Hansel let out a small sigh, not saying anything. The rest of them followed after Jackie obediently, heading out of Grand Yorn Mountain

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No one dared to doubt Jackie anymore. No matter what Jackie did, they would obediently follow.

The next afternoon, they finally arrived at the city where the Seven Absolutes Pavilion governed.

The Middle Province Alchemist Alliance's branch was in the skies of the city. Jackie had only just learned that all of the alliance's branches were vessels floating above a city.

It gave out a feeling that the alliance was above all conflicts.

When they entered the city, Hansel's expression was a little stiff. Jackie and the others were headed toward the vessel, so it was time to say goodbye.

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Chapter 2518

Jackie wasted no time as he saluted Hansel. "Go and head back to your clan, Hansel. We'll be heading to the airborne vessel."

Rudy glanced at Hansel. "Do you not want to head back?"

On the way, Jackie had not asked what happened to Hansel nor did he ask how Malcom had plotted against Hansel. Hansel did not open his mouth to explain either. They completed the journey quietly.

Hansel took a deep breath as he smiled bitterly. "There will be some trouble after I go back, but it's fine, I have confidence. As long as I tell the truth in its entirety, I'd most likely receive only a punishment or two. There shouldn't be anything too major."

Jackie looked at Hansel before saying calmly, "I killed Jordan for my own reasons. It

probably wouldn't have been a good thing for him to go back with you alive.

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"Someone like him could backstab you at any given moment. Furthermore, I feel like you're a merciful person.

"You might not be ruthless enough against him due to your past relationship. To prevent anything messy from happening, I decided to just get rid of him."

Hansel nodded and said, "You're right, Jackie, I was too soft on my juniors. I'd probably have smoother days ahead with them gone now."

Jackie nodded. Hansel shot a meaningful look at Jackie, still having something to say but swallowing the words.

He turned to look toward Seven Absolutes Pavilion.

The sect was the most important building in the whole city. It had all the flair a fifth-grade clan should have, and it was

the reason why the city was so prosperous.

As a disciple of the Seven Absolutes Pavilion, he was one of the most important people in the city. However, after everything that had happened, he had turned into a traitor.

Hansel was no fool; he had to fight for his innocence. The thought circled his mind for a while before Hansel took a deep breath and turned around, saluting Jackie.

He had been about exchanging pleasantries when Jackie immediately interrupted him, "There's something I want to ask you. I wonder if you could help me."

Hansel looked at Jackie curiously before answering, "Please do raise your concern, Jackie. You've saved my life, so naturally, I'll answer anything you want to know."

Jackie nodded; that was the answer he wanted.

"Malcolm said earlier that you had ties to the alliance. Is this alliance the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance? What kind of ties do you have?

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"What did you do for them, and what did that eighth elder have to do with the alliance? There've been many things happening with the alliance lately. I wonder if you know of them."

The slew of questions had all hit their marks. Each question that came from Jackie caused Hansel's expression to sour a little.

Rudy and Grayson looked at Jackie respectfully, wanting to shoot Jackie a thumbs up.

Jackie was too amazing. They had almost forgotten all these, yet Jackie still had it in mind. The things he asked were all incredibly important.

The three of them straightened their bodies as they looked at Hansel, waiting for his

answer.

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Chapter 2519

Hansel, unable to formulate a response to Jackie's question, stiffened as his gaze flitted around everywhere.

He mulled over the situation for a good while before he finally said, "I'm sorry, but I've been sworn to secrecy on this matter, and I've even signed a soul contract. If I talked about it, my soul would be punished."

Jackie raised an eyebrow, not saying anything.

Rudy anxiously said, "You just said you'd tell us everything, and now you're saying you've signed a soul contract? How could we know what kind of soul contract it is? Don't try to deter us like this!"

Hansel hurriedly shook his head. "I'm not lying! I did sign a soul contract, I promise. It's the kind that ties itself to heaven and earth. If I say anything, I probably won't be able to survive for a minute before my soul explodes!"

Hansel's words made it incredibly difficult for them to persist, but at the same time, Rudy and Grayson did not think Hansel was speaking the truth.

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They just felt like Hansel made up a random reason to shut them up because he did not want to reveal the truth. Hansel saying he had sworn into secrecy would, of course, prevent them from interrogating him further.

Jackie sighed as he said calmly, "Since you're not willing to answer, I won't force you. However, you have to answer this question.

"Has the Middle Province Alchemist Alliance encountered many problems lately? Are these problems so severe that they'd threaten the existence of the alliance?"

Hansel looked at Jackie with a surprised expression. After thinking about it, he

nodded. "I don't know if this matter would actually endanger the alliance. After all, the alliance has been in Middle Province for who knows how many years. They have very deep roots.

"Small matters wouldn't be able to threaten them, but it's true that they've had quite a handful of problems. That's all I can tell you."

Jackie nodded, rather satisfied with the answer. Knowing that, he would need to be more careful when doing a lot of things.

After they parted with Hansel, the three of them made their way to the airborne vessel. They showed their sixth-grade alchemist badges to the guard before declaring their reason for being there and who they were. The guard brought Jackie and the others to see Elder Simon.

Elder Simon was the head elder of the branch. When he heard about what happened to Jackie and the others, he hurriedly met them.

There were a total of five people in the spacious hall. Elder Simon sat in the main seat, while the steward, Xander, stood next to him. sitting in front were Jackie and the others.

Jackie and the others had been standing, but the elder had allowed them to sit on the account of their perilous journey.

Before they arrived, Jackie had already discussed with Rudy and Grayson not to reveal their battle with the one-eyed frost wolf and the three from the Seven Absolutes Pavilion. They could only say that they safely arrived in the Seven Absolutes Pavilion's territory after the vessel crashed.

That way, Jackie could hide his martial talent and save a lot of unnecessary trouble.

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Elder Simon's face soured after hearing their story." Heh, so it's those hooligans, are they! I knew they wouldn't let things rest so easily. How did the news leak out? Is there already a spy in the Rosefinch Pavilion's branch?"

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Chapter 2520

Xander, standing next to the elder, had a frown as well. "It's very likely that a spy has indeed infiltrated them. Otherwise, they wouldn't have gotten our route so easily and set up an ambush on the way. They must've been aiming for that thing..."

Elder Simon was furious, slamming his hand on the table. It caused the tea on the table to fall.

"I'll root out those spies for sure this time! Martin hadn't been smart enough to use the last of his strength to send away these three men, they would've died, and no one would've known about what had happened."

Xander nodded before he suddenly thought of something. He said in a low voice, "That Scarlet Blood Crystal-"

The moment he said that, Elder Simon immediately turned his head to shoot

Xander an expression to stop. Xander gulped, coughing as he swallowed back those words.

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The question was obviously not meant for the three of them to hear. The Scarlet Blood Crystal was in Jackie's hands at that moment; both Rudy and Grayson knew. However, Jackie had already warned them into secrecy, and they would not dare to reveal the fact that Jackie had already absorbed the Scarlet Blood Crystal. Furthermore, Elder Simon and Xander did not seem to think that the Scarlet Blood Crystal was with them all this time.

They had hidden the fact that Martin had sent the stone into the vessel with the last of his strength. They made it seem like it had fallen into enemy hands.

The two of them had dark looks on their faces. The situation had been explained thoroughly and all hints of suspicion were cleared. To begin with, they were not even heavily involved in this matter; they just happened to be dragged into this mess.

Elder Simon and Xander knew very well that Rudy and Grayson would want to head back to their own factions because of what had happened.

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Rudy and Grayson stood up together, and the two of them bowed to Elder Simon.

"Elder, what we've experienced... really placed our lives at stake, and it took a terrible toll on us. We no longer want to head to Phoenix Valley and merely want to return to where we-"

Before Rudy could finish, the elder interrupted him, "You can't go back. You've already decided to become students of the alliance, so you should stick to your vow. We've already talked to your factions.

"You've gone through the tests, and everything is already set.
You can't quit now!"

Rudy and Grayson's eyes widened at those words as anxiety washed over them like tidal waves. They had not expected that their request would be rejected so quickly and without consideration.

Elder Simon was telling them that they could abandon the thought, that it would not be possible for them to head back.

Rudy looked incredibly anxious at that moment as he hurriedly pleaded, "Elder, please! We're genuinely mortified by everything we've been through! The two of us are only at the early stage of the innate level, like mere ants on the side of the road in a fight. We'd die if anyone just blew in our direction. Our lives are incredibly important to us, and we really don't want to go to Phoenix Valley!"